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FLOODING IN ROMANIA

Torrential rainfall in Romania during the month of May caused heavy flooding in major areas of economic and agricultural importance to the country. Reportedly, hundreds of people have been killed and thousands left homeless. Television and radio broadcasts as well as newspaper and magazine articles report that the floods have seriously endangered the economy. Although the full extent of the damage is not known, approximately 1 million acres of farmland lie under water. Damage to transportation, housing, and communications is extensive, and Romanian authorities fear an outbreak of epidemics will result from the flooding.

Aid has been given to Romania by the United States, most countries of Western and Eastern Europe, and Great Britain. Although the Soviets were initially slow in responding to the disaster, the Bucharest Domestic Service reported that a Soviet aircraft recently landed at the Bucharest/Otopeni International Airport with a shipment of supplies provided by the Soviet Red Cross.

Satellite photography [] has provided partial coverage of

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the flooding in Romania [] Although the flood waters were subsiding, the photography provides evidence of high waters in central and south central Romania. Areas of reported major damage in western and eastern Romania were not covered []

At the time of the coverage, no major urban areas appeared to be inundated; however, the high waters observed over the river banks and roads confirm reports of property and crop damage. Since the initial flooding the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS) has reported additional rain and snowfall which could cause further flooding. The following graphics illustrate some of the flood damage:

Alba Iulia Area []

A Romanian "Scinteia" newspaper article of 20 May and a New York Times article with an accompanying news photograph of 25 May reported extensive damage at Alba Iulia caused by the flooding of the Mures River. Comparative views of the city [] show that although the flood waters had subsided, the river had not returned to its normal level. The surrounding terrain shows that the water had been at a much higher level.

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Apata Area

Comparative views of the area, just north of the industrial town of Brasov in central Romania, show the extent of the flooding of the Olt River. A section of road is observed under water.

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North of Slatina

High water marks of the Olt River are discernible immediately north of Slatina in south central Romania. Backwater pools can be seen where the river overflowed its banks.

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Slatina Area

This graphic shows the flood-expanded channel of the Olt River near the industrial town of Slatina.

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Turnu Magurele Area

Flooding is quite evident in the vicinity of Turnu Magurele near the confluence of the Olt and the Danube Rivers. An annotation indicates the location of a road under water.

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Pietrosani Area

Overflowing of the Danube River is observed in the vicinity of Pietrosani. An area of extensive land and road inundation is discernible on the photography.

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